

One common factor in the early history of the District Courts was the attitude of fierce independence of the participants—so typical of the early Texas settlers. These early litigants wanted to be able to express that independence through the courts—and they frequently did. And yet, it is the fact that the district courts throughout their history have tried the case and not the individual that has given these courts their strengths and their longevity.

The influence of the district courts on the development of the state can hardly be overstated, even though the vast majority of Texans are seldom aware of their decisions or of how those decisions will ultimately affect their lives. Those persons who find themselves a part of this judicial process—as parties, witnesses, jurors, attorneys, or judges—participate in an increasingly rare event. In no other governmental context does an individual have the opportunity to take a problem to a decision maker who represents the full force and power of that particular branch of government. This direct interchange between the individual and the state is the very heart of the American democratic process.⁸ The district courts enable the individual, regardless of background or circumstance, to invoke the rule of law, i.e. to call upon all the forces of government if need be to consider the matter that he brings.

Throughout their history, the district courts, have been a reflection of the times. The courts have codified the beliefs of the people as, under the courts' jurisdiction, the law has been subjected to the constant scrutiny of parties, witnesses, juries, judges, and attorneys. Thus the district courts are, and have been, a marvelous vehicle for change or conservation, depending on the forces of society. These evolutionary forces have been channeled by the judges who direct these courts and who have, over the years, insured that the district courts meets the high standards required and expected by all the citizens of Texas. The process continues today.

Throughout Judge Lawrence's life in Palestine he has been a stalwart activist in the community he helped shape and nurture. In the Palestine Rotary Club, the American Heart Association, the Salvation Army, the Howard Gardner Post No. 85 of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Disabled American Veterans, Judge Lawrence has contributed his time, his talent, his wisdom, and his resources to better the world in which he lives.

Judge Lawrence shared his life with Evelina Martin of Apple Springs, TX, from their marriage in 1949 until her death and, since 1993 with his wife, Layneigha Chapman.

Today, Judge Lawrence returns to private life. It is a much deserved retirement for him, but an inestimable loss to those of us who so admire and value his long and honorable service of justice in his beloved Third Judicial District.

No matter how distinguished his successors, Judge Rayburn Wayne Lawrence will always be a guiding presence in that courtroom and in the dispensing of justice everywhere.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CONYERS (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today and the balance of the week, on account of personal business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. SCHROEDER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. WISE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MCKINNEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. SCHROEDER, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HAYWORTH) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. ISTOOK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RIGGS, for 5 minutes each day, today and on November 8.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, on November 7.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes each day, today and on November 8.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, for 5 minutes each day, on November 7 and 8.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. SCHROEDER) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. TOWNS.

Mr. LANTOS.

Mr. BONIOR.

Mr. PASTOR.

Mrs. SCHROEDER.

Mr. CLEMENT.

Mr. HOYER.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HAYWORTH) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. SHAW.

Mr. RADANOVICH.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FALEOMAVEGA) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. BECERRA.

Mr. MARKEY.

Mr. HILLIARD.

Mr. SCHAEFER in two instances.

Mr. ROTH.

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey.

Mr. RAHALL.

Mr. MOAKLEY.

Mr. SHAW.

Ms. HARMAN.

Mr. CLAY.

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mr. ROHRBACHER.

Mr. PACKARD.

Mr. MORAN.

Mr. HINCHEY.

Mr. CONYERS.

Mr. KIM.

(The following Member (at the request of Mr. BRYANT of Texas) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BRYANT of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, November 6, 1995, at 12 noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1587. A letter from the Chief of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Navy, transmitting notification that the Department intends to renew lease of one naval vessel to the Government of Brazil, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 7307(b)(2); to the Committee on National Security.

1588. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a report involving United States exports to the People's Republic of China, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3)(i); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

1589. A letter from the Executive Director, Committee for Purchase from People Who are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting the Committee's annual report in compliance with the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1988, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) Sec. 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

1590. A letter from the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's annual report on the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act for fiscal year 1995, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3810; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

1591. A letter from the Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, transmitting the Agency's annual report in compliance with the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1988, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) Sec. 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

1592. A letter from the Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, transmitting the Administration's final environment impact statement [FEIS] on the effects of implementation of the expanded east coast plan [EECP] over the State of New Jersey, pursuant to Public Law 101-508, section 9119(c) (104 Stat. 1388-369); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1593. A letter from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting the Department's annual report entitled "Transportation Security" for calendar year 1994, pursuant to Public Law 101-604, section 102(a) (104 Stat. 3068); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1594. A letter from the Chairperson, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting the Commission's report entitled "The Chicago Report," pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1975; jointly, to the Committees on the Judiciary and Economic and Educational Opportunities.